

Function 920: Allowances

Function 920 displays the budgetary effects of proposals that cannot be easily distributed across other budget functions. In the past, this function has included funding for emergencies or proposals contingent on certain events.

For 2001, the conference agreement cuts non-defense appropriations by \$5.5 billion by including unspecified cuts within Function 920. As is explained in greater detail in *Appropriated Programs*, this is part of an effort to mask the size of the cuts to non-defense appropriations by making cuts without listing which programs would be hurt. Over the five-year period (2001-2005), the conference agreement contains \$22.2 billion of unspecified cuts in Function 920.¹⁴

- **Comparison with the House Resolution** — For 2001, the House-passed budget resolution provided \$5.1 billion in unspecified cuts to non-defense appropriations shown in Function 920, \$400 million less than in the conference agreement. Over five years, the House resolution's Function 920 showed \$18.5 billion in unspecified cuts, \$3.7 billion less than in the conference agreement.¹⁵ (In contrast, the Democratic alternative resolution contained no unspecified cuts in Function 920.)

Both the House resolution and the conference agreement assume the enactment of the 2000 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The House resolution included \$8.5 billion for the bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee on March 9. However, on March 30, 2000, the House passed a \$12.6 billion 2000 supplemental appropriations bill, exceeding the House-passed budget resolution by \$4.1 billion. The budget resolution conference agreement includes \$5.1 billion for the supplemental appropriations bill, \$3.4 billion less than the House-reported appropriations bill and \$7.1 billion less than the House-passed appropriations bill. The House resolution showed the total cost of the supplemental in Function 920, but the conference agreement distributes the supplemental's costs to the appropriate functions.

- **Repeal of Delay in Civilian Pay Day** — Function 920 in the conference agreement includes a provision contained in the 2000 Supplemental Appropriations bill that repeals a delay in pay dates for federal civilian employees who were scheduled to be paid on September 29 or

¹⁴ The conference agreement also includes a cut of \$59.2 billion in budget authority in Function 920 that would be needed to comply with the current caps on appropriations set by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This analysis does not address those cuts. See *Appropriated Programs* for more discussion.

¹⁵ The House resolution contained \$18.5 billion in unspecified cuts to budget authority, while the conference agreement contains \$22.2 billion in unspecified cuts to outlays.

September 30, 2000. Under the delay, they were to be paid on October 1, 2000, the first day in fiscal year 2001. The conference agreement restores the pay date to its original schedule, shifting approximately \$768 million in spending back to 2000. This provision also applies to military personnel, but that shift in DOD payments is reflected in Function 050 (Defense).

- ***Repeal of Delay in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments*** — The House-passed resolution included a timing shift that affected SSI payments dates but not benefit amounts. The House resolution repealed the delay of the October 2000 SSI payments that was enacted as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It thereby shifted the payment of benefits for that month from 2001 back to 2000, which increased SSI spending for 2000 by \$2.4 billion and reduced 2001 spending by an equal amount. The conference agreement dropped this provision.